

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 OES-03 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AGR-05

/076 W

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R 021125Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7844

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4400

E.O. 11652: N/A (DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT)

TAGS: USINJC, BEXP, IN

SUBJ: JOINT COMMISSION: JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL

REF: STATE 61813 NEW DELHI 3517

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH OAKLEY JOHNSON OF US CHAMBER ON MARCH 28 SUBSEQUENT TO HIS MEETING WITH FICCI. JOHNSON DESCRIBED MEETING WITH FICCI AS CORDIAL AND USEFUL. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL (JBC) WITH FIRST MEETING TO BE HELD IN DELHI IN NOVEMBER - DECEMBER. AGREEMENT ALSO REACHED THAT EACH SIDE WOULD NAME APPROXIMATELY 30 MEMBERS. IN FACT, JOHNSON EXPECTED THAT NO MORE THAN 15 AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WOULD BE PREPARED TO COME TO DELHI FOR A MEETING AND THAT THE OTHER AMERICAN "SLOTS" WOULD BE FILLED BY INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES OR BUSINESS PARTNERS. SIMILARLY, IN MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 15 INDIAN BUSINESSMEN WOULD ACTUALLY ATTEND.

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2. FICCI STAFF STATED THAT FICCI WOULD HANDLE INDIAN MEMBER-

SHIP BUT THAT INDO-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PLAY SOME ROLE. (WE EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT IN THIS APPROACH, SEE BELOW.) HOST COUNTRY'S CHAMBER WOULD HANDLE ALL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING. TRAVEL EXPENSES WOULD BE BORNE BY INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED. ON INDIAN SIDE REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE ENTERPRISES WOULD BE MEMBERS AND IN NEW DELHI FICCI EXPECTED THAT GOI REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT ATTEND MEETINGS. JOHNSON EXPRESSED RESERVATION ABOUT GOVERNMENTAL ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS BUT REALIZES THAT IN PRACTICE THERE IS LITTLE THAT US CHAMBER CAN DO TO CHANGE THE SITUATION. JOHNSON DOES NOT ENVISAGE ANY USG ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

3. JOHNSON ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP US MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMAN. WE PROMISED TO FURNISH SUGGESTIONS BY LETTER WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE PLEASED THAT GOI HAS GIVEN FICCI GREEN LIGHT TO MOVE AHEAD ON JBC AND THAT THIS INITIAL CONTACT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH US CHAMBER. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ASSIST IN LOCATING AND CONTACTING APPROPRIATE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS.

5. THE ONLY ISSUE WHICH GIVES US SOME CONCERN IS THE ESSENTIALLY TOKEN ROLE RESERVED FOR THE INDO-AMERICAN CHAMBER. WE SEE LITTLE POINT IN DISCUSSING THIS WITH GOI OR FICCI STAFF. UNLESS CONGEN BOMBAY WOULD PREFER EMBASSY TO MAKE APPROACH DIRECT, WE RECOMMEND YOU APPROACH HARISH MAHINDRA AND REQUEST HE DEVELOP A MORE MEANINGFUL ROLE FOR THE IACC. PERHAPS WE COULD DISCUSS THIS FURTHER THE NEXT TIME MAHINDRA IS IN NEW DELHI.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE04400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0268
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750489/aaaaddlf.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 61813, 75 NEW DELHI 3517
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT COMMISSION: JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL
TAGS: BEXP, US, IN, USINJC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006